

REMARKS

Initially, applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview on September 14, 2007. During the interview, the Examiner and applicants' representative discussed proposed amendments to claim 1 to further define the claimed opening ratio. Based on the Examiner's suggestions, applicants have amended claim 1 to recite "a member having a minimal cross-section flow path, the member being disposed downstream of the flow sensor, and having an opening ratio of less than 6.25%, wherein the opening ratio is a ratio of a total open area of the member to a total area of the member."

Claims 1, 3, and 15 under 35 USC 102(b) on Speldrich (U.S. Patent No. 6,655,207). Applicants' amendments to claim 1 have overcome the rejection. As conceded by the Examiner, Speldrich does not disclose or suggest an opening ratio of less than 6.25%. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3 and 15, which depend from claim 1, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 2 and 4-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Speldrich in view of Schoess (U.S. Patent No. 6,652,740). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Schoess, which was cited by the Examiner as disclosing a tapping plate, fails to overcome the deficiencies of Speldrich detailed above. Accordingly, claims 2 and 4-6, which depend from claim 1, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claims 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Speldrich. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As noted above, claim 1 is allowable over Speldrich. Accordingly, claims 9 and 11, which depend from claim 1, are allowable due at least to their respective dependencies.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) on Speldrich in view of Schoess and Myhre (U.S. Patent No. 4,376,929). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

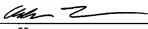
Myhre, which was cited as disclosing the etching of an aperture, fails to overcome the deficiencies of Speldrich and Schoess detailed above. Accordingly, claim 10, which depends from claim 1, is allowable due at least to its dependency.

Applicants solicit an early action allowing the claims.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief, including extensions of time, and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. **204552035700**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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